

From: Alexandre
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/10/02 3:45pm
Subject: Microsoft settlement

I don't know how helpful this E-mail will be but I wanted to be sure that you knew an open source company has proposed to offer free software (much like windows and office, but from another company) for the hardware (the computers) Microsoft would provide to the poorer schools of the country. That means that Microsoft will really help, and won't extend its monopoly by supplying its own software to the schools it wants to help. Also, if another company takes care of the software, maybe Microsoft can offer more Hardware. The company is Red Hat. You can get their press release here and maybe write to them for more info.

http://biz.yahoo.com/bw/011120/202744_1.html

I feel its wrong for a company that was found guilty of abusing of its monopoly to extend its monopoly by providing old, free computers and its own software to kids who are eager to learn. They dishonestly steal marketplaces for other companies, namely Apple, their biggest competitor in the education market, who is leader in that market, and eventually trying to be paid by saying that in 5 years their contract will be over and the schools will have to pay for upgrades.

Open source software is completely free, and just as useful and easy to use. It is as easy for children to learn a computer system not used as wide as windows because they haven't yet had contact with windows, and it is better for them to get a wide grasp at what computers are, and not just the Microsoft point of view.

If Red Hat doesn't suit the education market, you should consider other alternatives, like Linux, Apple, and other competitors. Microsoft should just provide money and hardware, not their software.

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I was advised by Richard Blumenthal, Attorney General to send you this E-mail I had sent to him earlier.

Thank you.
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